

## **Secondary and Further Education (SaFE) Group Newsletter January 2018**

A belated Happy New Year 2018 to all SaFE group members, and welcome to all new members.

The SaFE group is still a relatively new group (since 2015) but its aim is to bring together teachers and educators from all levels primary, secondary, further education, work based learning and higher education.

Our annual conference aims to have something for everyone although the content varies year by year. Last year we had a significant input about the primary to secondary interface but this year secondary and further education to higher education will be more of a focus, and of course discussions about A level changes.

We usually include some hands on practical sessions also work based sessions so that we aim to have something that appeals to all educators. The networking opportunities are very popular at the conferences. We try to have our annual conference in different locations giving the chance for teachers from different areas of the country to attend.

### **4th National Chemistry Teachers and Educators Conference Birmingham University Chemistry Department Tuesday 3rd July 2018**

This year our theme is Transitions – Post 16 and Moving On  
[Conference details and programme.](#)

The cost for members will be £20.00 for early bird and £25.00 for later registration.  
[Online Registration](#)

You can read the report on our 2017 conference at the end of this newsletter.

In addition to the conferences, we have been building up our social network presence so please visit our website [www.rscsafegroup.wordpress.com](http://www.rscsafegroup.wordpress.com) or our Facebook site [www.Facebook.com/RSCSaFE](http://www.Facebook.com/RSCSaFE) or follow us on Twitter [@SFEd\\_RSC](https://twitter.com/SFEd_RSC).

We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 conference and hearing about any suggestions you might have.

*Dr Julie Hyde, CChem FRSC. SFHEA.  
Chair of the Secondary and Further Education (SaFE) group.*

## Meeting Report

Please see our conference report for July 2017 below and you can find more details (and photos) of all of our previous conferences (2015/2016 and 2017) on our website. If you have any ideas for events or if you want to take more or a part with the SaFE group please contact us.

### **Secondary and Further Education (SaFE) Group 3rd one day National Teachers and Educators Conference Birmingham University Tuesday 4th July 2017.**

Approximately 75 delegates including speakers and the committee attended this one day SaFE educators conference, it was good to see several representatives from the RSC attend the day. A new addition to the conference this year was to have poster exhibits to visit and discuss with during the breaks with one or two hands on activities. This went down really well with the delegates and we plan to use this format for future conferences. Posters were presented by the RSC, ASE, SCI, Peter Hoare and Outreach at Newcastle and the local Educational Coordinators Heidi Dobbs and Ruth Patchett.

**Prof. John Preece** from the University of Birmingham welcomed the delegates and delivered a brief introduction to Birmingham University and its courses and launched their new initiative for outreach [chembam.com](http://chembam.com).

**Dr Julie Hyde** the Chair of the committee then welcomed delegates and discussed the format of the day and introduced the Keynote Speaker speaker **Edmund Walsh** who delivered his presentation "Divining the algorithm". Ed delivered a lively presentation founded on the changes from KS2/KS3 with a focus on practicals at this level as well as GCSE discussions about controlled assessments that have now gone out of the curriculum. Ed stated that "science without practical work is like swimming without water", he included lively discussions throughout his presentation where he asked the audience to briefly discuss about the importance of the scientific process, inquiry, knowledge and understanding, practical process, what do students do the best? Ed set the tone of the day and these topics were built on through further discussions.

After a short break, with opportunities for networking and visiting the posters, the next presentations would set the scene for the breakout sessions held in the afternoon whereby three presentations were delivered until lunch.

**Dr Andy Marwick** presented "Excite Primary Science". Andy a teacher of many years has taken an interest in the primary-secondary interface and has recognised the problem that Chemists of all levels face in the fact that students are not being inspired at an early enough age with hands on science. Many of us are aware that primary is really the time that will turn kids onto science, how much is being done? Andy encouraged the audience to get involved with more primary practicals and his hands-on afternoon session would give some ideas of how to wow the younger generation and help to inspire them.

**Simon Jukes** the Director of CSR scientific training group was the next speaker about “Apprenticeships and Industry”. Simon explained about training in the workplace, discussed who such courses work-based training would be for and brought the idea to the delegates that these type of programmes can be right for some students who are not academically based. There are a number of changes to work based training that are currently happening, in the breakout session there would be the chance to discuss these more fully. Many teachers are interested in apprenticeships in options for their students and again this was an interesting presentation for all delegates.

**Dr David Patterson** was the next speaker, currently a subject specialist from OCR presenting on making “A” level practical more accessible. A hot topic for delegates about the “A” level practical and it will continue to be so for some time, an informative presentation with David inviting delegates “to be continued” in the breakout sessions. David himself will be returning to the classroom in September 2017. Birmingham gave us a splendid lunch and delegates had the opportunity of networking, looking at the exhibition and catching up with colleagues old and new.

**The breakout sessions** took the same format as in the past where delegates could sign up to attend 2 out of 5 possible sessions that they selected upon arrival. The ever popular microscale chemistry by **Bob Worley** who did not need to speak for his sessions to be brimming in the laboratory for both of the hours were both informative and enjoyable. Bob brings both simple and complicated experiments into the classroom with minimum and ingenious equipment, the “jam jar” spirit burners for example. If you want to catch Bob in action and get some important classroom tips for yourself we have secured Bob to come to the 2018 conference Tuesday 3rd July 2018. **Dr David Patterson** also had a packed laboratory each hour for his practical sessions aimed at GCSE chemistry, again with lots of “take away ideas” for teachers but without great expense. Both of these sessions are exactly what is needed for teachers where budgets are limited these days. It was the first time that we introduced the primary element to the conference this year, **Dr Andy Marwick** an expert in the field had two packed sessions with simple but challenging experiments that were safe to carry out with the young but also aimed at inspiring new chemists to interesting practical work, there were lots of ideas delegates could use in their future work. Many colleagues are involved with the Y6-Y7 interface and making that link with secondary schools as the students prepare to move on will be valuable. **Simon Jukes** delivered informative sessions as he continued his work-based theme by updating delegates about the new changes to industrial options, delegates took part in lively discussions about the changes for teachers and employers. **Dr Sandy Wilkinson** based at Birmingham is well known for his support to teachers in the use of ICT to enhance teaching, learning and assessment in chemistry. His sessions were well attended with delegates taking away lots of new ideas.

Our final session was delivered by the well known **Lorelly Wilson** who delivered the session called “Superstarters” which both wowed and showed all of the audience many great demonstrations using household items and kitchen chemicals. Lorelly is

a master at capturing the attention of young people and inspiring them to consider the chemistry of the reactions she carries out. There was certainly lots for delegates to take away and try with their groups; primary students or young people to help getting them to think of chemistry is fun, interesting and exciting. Lorelly's presentation was an excellent session to finish a packed but great day.

The **conference was closed** by Dr Julie Hyde. The date for the next conference is **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 venue** at Birmingham

***Some feedback from delegates that will help with future planning*** - the advertising was generally good but some people only found out about it late. We decided to use more social media to advertise for 2018. Some people found the RSC registration was easy others not the main issue was no confirmation was sent from the registration process. The Location has been considered fine to date with the conference in Birmingham this year 2018, we plan to move it next year, 2019. Delegates generally found the location fine some wanted more varied topics, they liked the networking opportunities but wanted more time. Generally a very good conference, delegates liked some practical element in the conference and all delegates wanted to keep the range as wide as possible. Delegates took home lots of useful ideas and found the conference very valuable, most delegates liked the format of the day, lectures in the morning, activities in the afternoon.